

a data retriever mechanism in communication with the data handler mechanism, the data retriever mechanism being arranged to obtain the data and to pass the data to the data handler mechanism; and

a mapping mechanism in communication with the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being separate from the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being arranged to obtain the command object and a command list identifying commands associated with the data, wherein the command object is obtained by the mapping mechanism based substantially on the data and wherein the command list is returned through the data handler mechanism to the application for display.

9. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for associating data with a command object in response to a request from an application, the method comprising:

accessing the data through an interface in response to the request from the application, the interface being independent from the application and in communication with the application, wherein the request from the application is processed by the interface, the interface allowing use of new command objects without modifying the application;

accessing a mapping mechanism which is in communication with the interface, the mapping mechanism being independent from the application such that the mapping mechanism is not a component of the application, the mapping mechanism being maintained separately from the interface, the mapping mechanism further being arranged to locate a command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism is accessed by the interface;

obtaining the command object that is appropriate for the data and a command list identifying commands associated with the data, wherein the mapping mechanism obtains the command object and passes the obtained command object to the interface;

binding the command object to the data, wherein the interface binds the command object to the data; and

returning the command object and the command list to the application, wherein the interface returns the command object to the application and the data handler mechanisms returns the command list to the application for display.

16. (Amended) A computer program product for associating data with a command object in response to a request from an application, the computer program product comprising:

computer code for accessing the data through an interface in response to the request from the application, the interface being independent from the application and in communication with

the application, wherein the request from the application is processed by the interface, the interface allowing use of new command objects without modifying the application;

computer code for accessing a mapping mechanism which is in communication with the interface, the mapping mechanism being independent from the application such that the mapping mechanism is not a part of the application, the mapping mechanism further being separately maintained from the interface, the mapping mechanism further being arranged to locate a command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism is accessed by the interface;

computer code for obtaining the command object that is appropriate for the data and a command list identifying commands associated with the data, wherein the mapping mechanism obtains the command object and passes the obtained command object to the interface;

computer code for binding the command object to the data, wherein the interface binds the command object to the data; and

computer code for returning the command object and the command list to the application, wherein the interface returns the command object to the application and the data handler mechanisms returns the command list to the application for display.

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

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21. A computer-implemented framework according to claim 16 wherein the command object is obtained by the mapping mechanism based substantially on the data without an external input from a user of the application.

22. A computer-implemented framework according to claim 16 wherein the command object is obtained by the mapping mechanism based substantially on the data without directly involving the application.

23. (Amended) A computer-implemented framework for associating data with a command object, the command object being arranged to operate on the data, wherein the data is associated with a selected application, the computer-implemented framework comprising:

a data handler mechanism arranged to interface with a plurality of applications, the plurality of applications including the selected application, wherein the data handler mechanism is independent from the plurality of applications and allows use of new command objects without modifying the application;